

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112453

LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP

FOLLOWING REPEAT ACCRA 3007 ACTION SECSTATE ABIDJAN DATED

13 MAY 75

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ACCRA 3007

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EAIR GH

SUBJ: MINUTES OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS'S MEETING WITH MFA

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS MET WITH ACTION COMMISSIONER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS COLONEL ROBERT KOTEI ON MAY 9. AMBASSADOR BLACK, POLITICAL COUNSELOR BAXTER AND STAFF ASSISTANT SIMPSON ALSO ON U.S. SIDE. SENIOR PRINCIPAL SECRETARY ERIC OTOO, CHIEF OF PROTOCOL VISHNU WASSIAMAL, J.A. ASMAH AND J.Q. CLELAND, LATTER TWO OF ECONOMIC DIVISION, ALSO ON GHANAIAI SIDE.

2. COLONEL KOTEI SPOKE FIRST, NOTING THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NATIONAL REDEMPTION COUNCIL ENJOYED GOOD RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THEY WERE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THE LOAN OF DOLLARS 19 MILLION. THE GOVERNMENT OF GHANA WELCOMES FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME ADHERING TO ITS POLICY OF SELF-RELIANCE. HE THEN PROCEEDED TO RAISE SIX TOPICS WHICH WERE EITHER AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN GHANA AND THE UNITED STATES OR AREAS IN WHICH THE GOG SOUGHT FURTHER CONFIDENTIAL

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CLARIFICATION:

A. BILATERAL AIR AGREEMENT: COLONEL KOTEI NOTED THAT SINCE 1963 THE GOG HAD REQUESTED THAT A BILATERAL AIR SERVICE AGREEMENT BE

CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND GHANA. THE GOG HAD ALSO NOTED THAT RECENTLY (SIC) AGREEMENTS HAD BEEN CONCLUDED WITH MOROCCO AND ZAIRE. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT NEW TALKS COULD BE HELD AND THAT THESE WOULD RESULT IN THE EARLY CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT.

B. TRADE ACT OF 1974: COLONEL KOTEI SAID THAT THE GOG VERY MUCH APPRECIATED THAT IT WAS INCLUDED AMONG THE COUNTRIES RECEIVING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT UNDER THE ACT.

C. TEXTILE AGREEMENT OF 1973: COLONEL KOTEI SAID THAT THE GOG WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION AS TO WHETHER THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOG AND THE USG PERMITTING GHANA TO EXPORT COTTON TEXTILES TO THE US WOULD BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE TRADE ACT OF 1974. HE SAID THAT THE MINISTRY HAD BEEN ASSURED BY THE AMBASSADOR THAT THERE WAS NO CONFLICT BETWEEN THE AGREEMENT AND THE ACT AND REQUESTED ASSURANCES THAT THIS IS SO.

D. INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT: COLONEL KOTEI NOTED THE DISAPPOINTMENT OF THE GOG THAT THE US IS NOT A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT. HE NOTED THAT IN SEPTEMBER OF THIS YEAR NEGOTIATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE TOWARD A NEW AGREEMENT AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US WOULD PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND WOULD SIGN THE RESULTING AGREEMENT.

E. INVESTMENT POLICY DECREE OF 1975: COLONEL KOTEI WISHED TO ASSURE THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY THAT THE DECREE IS NOT MEANT TO DISCOURAGE INVESTORS. IT IS RATHER A MEANS TO FURTHER THE GOG'S POLICY OF SELF-RELIANCE AND TO STREAMLINE MEASURES TOWARDS ITS IMPLEMENTATION. IT IS A LONG-RANGE POLICY TO SPREAD THE OWNERSHIP OF THE ASSETS OF GHANA AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GHANA, EITHER AS INDIVIDUALS OR AS REPRESENTED BY THE STATE. HE NOTED THAT THERE WERE THREE SEPARATE CATEGORIES. THE FIRST CATEGORY WOULD BE WHOLLY UNDER GHANAIAN OWNERSHIP, THE SECOND PARTLY GHANAIAN AND THE THIRD WOULD BE INDUSTRIES IN WHICH THE STATE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN OWNERSHIP.

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F. INTERNATIONAL ISSUES: COLONEL KOTEI SAID THAT HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD APPRECIATE AMBASSADOR DAVIS' COMMENTS ON AMERICAN POLICY WITH REGARD TO RHODESIA, SOUTH AFRICA, THE EMERGING PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES, AND SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE BYRD AMENDMENT WITH REGARD TO RHODESIA. ON SOUTH AFRICA HE ASKED ABOUT AMERICAN POLICY ON NAMIBIA, EXPRESSED CONCERN AT PRESS REPORTS THAT THE UNITED STATES MIGHT ENTER A DEFENSE AGREEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA FOLLOWING ON THE BRITISH ABANDONMENT OF THEIR NAVAL BASE IN SIMONSTOWN, AND SAID THAT HE WANTED TO BRING TO OUR NOTICE THE SHOCK OF THE GOG OVER THE RECENT SUPPLY OF URANIUM TO SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH, COLONEL KOTEI SAID, COULD BE DIVERTED TO NUCLEAR WEAPONS. HE ALSO WANTED THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S

VIEWS ON THE ROLE OF THE US FOLLOWING THE FALL OF CAMBODIA
AND SOUTH VIETNAM.

G. COLONEL KOTEI CONCLUDED HIS PRESENTATION BY NOTING THE
EXCELLENT IMPRESSION GHANAIANS HAD OF AMBASSADOR BLACK AND
EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION TO THE US FOR SENDIND SO DISTINGUISHED
AND POPULAR AN AMBASSADOR.

3. AMBASSADOR DAVIS RESPONDED TO EACH OF THE POINTS RAISED
BY COLONEL KOTEI:

A. HE SAID THE US WAS GRATIFIED THAT THE US WAS ABLE TO EXTEND
THE DEVELOPMENT LOAN TO GHANA AND NOTED THAT THIS NEW
LOAN HAD BEEN MADE POSSIBLE BY EFFECTIVE ACTION BY THE NATIONAL
REDEMPTION COUNCIL IN TIDYING UP THE ECONOMIC SITUATION
IT INHERITED WHEN IT TOOK OFFICE.

B. HE NOTED THE IMPORTANCE THAT THE US PLACES UPON ITS
RELATIONS WITH GHANA AND THE HISTORIC ROLE OF GHANA AS THE
FIRST AFRICAN NATION TO ACHIEVE INDEPENDENCE FROM A COLONIAL
POWER.

C. THE US HAD RECEIVED THE GHANAIAAN PROPOSAL FOR RESUMPTION
OF TALKS ON CIVIL AVIATION. AMBASSADOR DAVIS SAID THE MATTER
WAS UNDER DISCUSSION IN WASHINGTON NOW AND THAT A MESSAGE WAS
UNDER PREPARATION TO INDICATE THAT THE US WOULD BE PREPARED
TO SIT DOWN AND TALK AGAIN ABOUT THIS QUESTION. HE DID NOTE,
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HOWEVER, THE RECENT RESTRICTIONS ON THE OPERATION OF PAN AM
AND SAID THAT HE HOPED THE GOG WOULD UNDERSTAND THAT PAN AM
COULD NOT CHANGE ITS SCHEDULES ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. HE ASKED
THAT COLONEL KOTEI CONSIDER A DELAY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE NEW RULES.

D. AMBASSADOR DAVIS SAID HE APPRECIATED THAT THE GOG WAS
PLEASED WITH THE TRADE ACT OF 1974 AND COMMENTED THAT SOME
OTHER COUNTRIES NEAR BY WERE NOT SO HAPPY. HE ALSO SAID THAT
THE ACTIONS TAKEN UNDER THE LOME CONVENTION WERE ALSO
APPRECIATED BY THE US.

E. AMBASSADOR DAVIS STATED THAT THE US DOES NOT OPPOSE
COMMODITY AGREEMENTS AS SUCH AND IS, INDEED, NOW NEGOTIATING
WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ON A NEW INTERNATIONAL COFFEE AGREEMENT.
HE DID SAY THAT THE US HAD DIFFICULTIES WITH
THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT
AND WAS UNABLE TO ADHERE TO IT BUT, NONETHELESS, HAD
COOPERATED FULLY IN TECHNICAL AND STATISTICAL MATTERS. HE
ALSO NOTED THAT THE INCREASE IN COCOA PRICES HAD RESULTED IN
A SITUATION IN WHICH THE AGREEMENT HAD NOT BEEN IMPLEMENTED.
HOWEVER, HE WAS HAPPY TO SAY THAT THE US WAS PREPARED TO
PARTICIPATE IN NEW NEGOTIATIONS IF INVITED AND HOPED THAT A

COOPERATIVE SPIRIT DURING THE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD RESULT IN AN AGREEMENT WHICH THE US WOULD BE ABLE TO SIGN.

F. ON COTTON TEXTILES, HE SAID THAT HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF ANY POTENTIAL CONFLICT AND WAS CERTAIN THAT, IF THE AMBASSADOR GAVE ASSURANCES THAT THERE WAS NO CONFLICT, THESE WERE CORRECT. HE THEREFORE ASSUMED THAT IT WAS NOT A PROBLEM, BUT WOULD LOOK INTO IT FURTHER.

G. HE SAID THAT THE US HAD READ WITH INTEREST THE NEW DECREE ON INVESTMENTS. IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT VALCO, THE LARGEST OF AMERICAN INVESTMENTS, WOULD PROBABLY NOT BE AFFECTED BY THE DECREE AND THAT SEVERAL OTHER COMPANIES WERE EITHER IN COMPLIANCE OR CLOSE TO COMPLIANCE. AS HE UNDERSTOOD IT, THE PETROLEUM DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES MIGHT BE AFFECTED. HE ADDED THAT IT WAS THE VIEW OF THE US THAT THE OWNERSHIP OF INDUSTRIES WITHIN A COUNTRY IS A DOMESTIC QUESTION OF THAT COUNTRY AND NOT ONE IN WHICH THE US IS DIRECTLY INVOLVED. THE REQUIREMENT
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UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW IS THAT A PROMPT AND FAIR COMPENSATION BE PAID TO INVESTORS WHOSE ASSETS ARE BEING NATIONALIZED. HE ALSO SAID THAT, IF A COUNTRY IS INTERESTED IN NEW AMERICAN CAPITAL, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THAT COUNTRY CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE OF CONFIDENCE IN THE STABILITY OF THE ARRANGEMENTS UNDER WHICH THE INVESTORS PUT THEIR MONEY INTO THAT COUNTRY. FOREIGN INVESTMENT IS IMPORTANT, BOTH FOR CAPITAL AND FOR TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER; WE KNOW THIS, AS WE ACCOMPLISHED OUR OWN DEVELOPMENT IN THE 19TH CENTURY WITH THE AID OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT.

H. AMBASSADOR DAVIS RESPONDED TO THE QUESTIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA: (1) HE RECALLED THAT THE UNITED STATES HAD SUPPORTED THE 1968 UN DECISION ON AN EMBARGO ON RHODESIA. LATER THE BYRD AMENDMENT WAS PASSED BY THE AMERICAN CONGRESS, WHICH PROVIDED AN EXCEPTION TO THE EMBARGO FOR THE U.S. THE ADMINISTRATION HAD MADE AND IS MAKING EFFORTS IN THE CONGRESS FOR THE REPEAL OF THE BYRD AMENDMENT. ONE OF PRESIDENT FORD'S EARLIEST STATEMENTS AFTER HE BECAME PRESIDENT WAS IN SUPPORT OF THE EFFORTS TO REPEAL THE AMENDMENT, AND HE HIMSELF HAD SPOKEN TO A NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS ABOUT IT. THE ADMINISTRATION HAS HOPES THAT THE REPEAL WILL BE SUCCESSFUL DURING THE CURRENT SESSION OF CONGRESS. AMBASSADOR DAVIS ALSO NOTED THAT HE ALMOST MISSED HIS AIRPLANE TO COME ON THIS CURRENT TRIP BECAUSE HE WAS MEETING WITH BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA, REVEREND SITHOLE AND OTHER LEADERS OF ZIMBABWE IN WASHINGTON. HE HAD ASSURED THEM THAT THE US SUPPORTS THE PRINCIPLE OF MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA, AND HE FOUND THE MEETINGS MOST USEFUL.

(2) AMBASSADOR DAVIS ALSO NOTED THAT THE US, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND FRANCE HAD JOINTLY MADE REPRESENTATIONS TO THE

GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA ON THE QUESTION OF NAMIBIA.

(3) AMBASSADOR DAVIS SAID THAT THE US' RELATIONS WITH THE FORMER PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES HAD BEEN ONE OF THE TOPICS DISCUSSED DURING THE VISIT TO THE US OF PRESIDENT KAUNDA. KAUNDA WAS REASSURED BY PRESIDENT FORD THAT THE US WELCOMED INDEPENDENCE AND WAS PREPARED TO HELP THE NEW COUNTRIES IF WE WERE REQUESTED TO DO SO.

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(4) AMBASSADOR DAVIS SAID SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD ASSURED THE AFRICAN AMBASSADORS IN WASHINGTON THAT THE US HAD NO INTENTION OF ENTERING INTO A DEFENSE ARRANGEMENT WITH SOUTH AFRICA.

I. AMBASSADOR DAVIS DESCRIBED THE SITUATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. HE SAID THAT TWO POINTS NEEDED TO BE NOTED. FIRST, THE US IS NOT GOING TO WITHDRAW INTO ISOLATION, AND, SECONDLY, US POWER IS "ESSENTIALLY UNAFFECTED."

J. AMBASSADOR DAVIS EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION OF THE KIND REMARKS OF COLONEL KOTEI WITH REGARD TO AMBASSADOR BLACK AND SAID THAT SHE HAD THE COMPLETE CONFIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY, AND THOSE WHO DEAL WITH HER.

4. COLONEL KOTEI CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR THE CLARIFICATION ON AMERICAN POLICY GIVEN BY AMBASSADOR DAVIS AND SAID THAT THE VISIT WOULD GO FAR TOWARD STRENGTHENING THE ALREADY-CLOSE TIES BETWEEN THE US AND GHANA.

BLACK UNQUOTE
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